

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Acts and Resolves

As Passed by the

Seventy-Ninth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AT THE

SPECIAL SESSION

November 4-8, 1919

Supplementary to the Acts and Resolves of the Regular Session.

Published by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Resolves of the
Legislature approved June 28, 1820, March 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Seventy-Ninth Legislature

AT THE

Special Session, November 4-8

1919

Supplementary to Public Laws of the Regular Session

[supplied from page 3 of volume]

CHAP. 256

bonus of fifteen per cent; and upon salaries in excess of four thousand dollars a bonus of ten per cent. All such bonuses shall be paid from any unexpended balance of any appropriation made for such departments, boards or commissions or from the state contingent fund.

Approved November 7, 1919.

Chapter 256.

An Act to Prevent Profiteering in the Necessities of Life and Rents or Charges for the Occupancy of Buildings for Dwelling Purposes and to Provide Penalties therefor and Investigations thereof.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Penalty prescribed for profiteering in the necessities of life; term "necessities of life" defined. Any dealer, trader, manufacturer or warehouseman who with intent to enhance the price or restrict the supply of the necessities of life wilfully destroys or permits preventable waste in the production, manufacture, storage or distribution of the same, or, with such intent, prevents, limits, lessens or restricts the manufacture, production, supply or distribution of said necessities or hoards said necessities or exacts or demands any unjust or unreasonable profit in the sale, exchange or handling of the said necessities or unreasonably discriminates against any person in the sale of such necessities, or in any way aids or abets the doing of any act hereinbefore mentioned, shall be punished by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than three years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "necessities of life" shall include food for human consumption, food for domestic animals, wearing apparel, shoes, building materials, gas and electricity for light, heat and power, fuel of all kinds, fertilizer and fertilizer ingredients, together with tools, utensils, implements, machinery and equipment required for the actual production or manufacture of the same.

Sec. 2. Penalty prescribed for profiteering in rents. Whoever demands or collects an unreasonable or unjust rent or charge, taking into due consideration the actual market value of the property at the time, with a fair return thereon, or imposes an unreasonable or unjust term or condition, for the occupancy of any building or any part thereof, rented or hired for dwelling purposes, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 3. Attorney general to investigate violations; may summon witnesses and require production of books, papers, records, etc.; how expense

of investigation shall be paid; attorney general to prosecute or to present available information to state or United States officials. Supreme or superior court justices may compel attendance of witnesses before attorney general; failure to obey summons to be considered contempt of court. The attorney general shall investigate all violations of this act, all contracts, combinations or conspiracies in restraint of trade or commerce and all monopolies, and may require, by summons, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books and papers before him relating to any such matter under investigation. Such summons shall be served in the same manner as summons for witnesses in criminal cases before said courts and all provisions of law relating thereto shall apply to summonses issued under this act so far as they are applicable. The expense of such investigation shall be paid from the appropriation provided by section seventy-two of chapter eighty-two of the revised statutes.

If, upon investigation, it appears to the attorney general that the laws of this state, including the provisions of this act, have been violated in any respect, he shall forthwith prosecute the guilty parties, or present all available information bearing upon such apparent violation to the proper prosecuting officer of the State of Maine or of the United States.

Any justice of the supreme judicial court or of a superior court may by order, upon application of the attorney general, compel the attendance of witnesses, the production of books and papers, including correspondence, and the giving of testimony, before the attorney general in the same manner and to the same extent as before said courts; and any failure to obey such order may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

Sec. 4. Invalidation of any part of act not to invalidate entire act. If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, no other provision of this act shall be impaired or held invalid in consequence thereof.

Approved November 7, 1919.

Chapter 257.

An Act to Amend Section Fifty-three of Chapter Two Hundred Fifty-nine of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred and Seventeen, Relating to Election and Appointment of Commissioned Officers.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, certain changes in the Military Law are necessary in order to render more efficient the active militia of the State of Maine; therefore, in the judgment of the legislature, the measure herein proposed is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, therefore

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 1917, c. 259, § 53; relating to election and appointment of commissioned officers of National Guard, amended. Section fifty-three of